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Washington LABOR MARKET

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Washington State
Employment Security

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Commissioner

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Employment and Training
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Highlights

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Employment Springs Ahead

Spring weather boosted employment in several industries between February and March, and the state's unemployment rate began falling from winter levels. The statewide jobless rate dropped from 9.2 percent in February to 8.9 percent in March. The March rate was unchanged over the year.

Total employment jumped 22,200 over the month with 19,000 of the new jobs in nonagricultural wage and salary employment. Agriculture also began expanding in March. Farm activity during the month included the daffodil bud harvest, potato seed and asparagus planting, hop yard work, tillage and other pre-season work.

Volume 11, Number 4

	Mar. 1987* (Prel.)	Feb. 1987* (Rev.)	Mar. 1986
Civilian Labor Force	2,196,200	2,180,700	2,127,000
Total Employment	2,001,500	1,979,300	1,936,900
Total Unemployment	194,700	201,400	190,100
State Unemployment Rate	8.9	9.2	8.9
National Civilian Unemployment Rate	6.9	7.2	7.5

*These data represent alternative estimates of labor force conditions developed by the State Employment Security Department. They are more comparable with data released in previous years than are the official Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates developed for federal program purposes. (Data in this table are not seasonally adjusted.)

Services Lead Expansion

Employment in the services industries moved up 4,800 in March to post the largest gain in the nonmanufacturing industries. Expansions in the services category included firms preparing income tax returns for individuals and businesses who added employees in March with the tax deadline approaching. The beginning of spring yard work, tree pruning and landscaping boosted the job total in agricultural services, while the start of the early tourist season prompted an expansion at hotels and motels.

Retailers See Sunshine

Seasonal factors also boosted trade employment in March. Retail trade payrolls rose 3,200. Hardware and garden supply stores expanded with spring yard work and landscaping beginning. Recreational vehicle dealers also added staff as people started to prepare for summer recreation and vacations. Jobs at restaurants and other eating and drinking places expanded with the early tourist season underway. Gains on the retail level were augmented by an increase of 900 on the wholesale level. Seasonal expansions were noted at firms selling farm supplies and at wholesale fruit and vegetable dealers who were handling more fresh produce from California.

Construction And Government Jobs Up

Construction added 3,300 jobs in March with highway work moving into full gear, and homebuilders encouraged by low interest rates. Spring weather was also partially responsible for a gain in government employment which added 3,200. Outdoor work on roads and highways expanded as did landscape work at public facilities. Public education also contributed to the

growth in government as schools rounded out staffing for the remainder of the regular school year.

Canneries Begin Seasonal Expansion

Manufacturing employment moved ahead in March, gaining 2,800 from February. The largest increase was in food products (up 1,100) where food processing plants began work on their first crop of the season, asparagus from California. In April they will shift to asparagus grown in Washington. Other expansions included an increase of 400 in aerospace which continued to grow, but at a slower pace than last year. Lumber firms added 400 workers in March with production running at a high level. Gains of 200 each were credited to pulp and paper, printing-publishing and chemicals.

53,400 New Jobs Over the Year

The year-to-year comparison continues to reflect vigorous growth in the state's economy with nonfarm wage and salary employment up 53,400 or 3.1 percent. Most of the gains continued to be registered in the nonmanufacturing industries. Manufacturing employment accounted for only 2,500 of the new jobs as losses in aluminum, nonelectrical machinery, food products, electrical equipment and instruments partially offset growth in aerospace, pulp-paper, and printing-publishing. On the positive side, aerospace added 6,800 jobs over the year to lead the expansion thanks to a hefty backlog of orders for commercial jetliners. Pulp and paper was 700 above its year-earlier level. In this industry, at least, the decline in the value of the dollar relative to foreign currencies has boosted exports, and much of its expansion can be credited to increased foreign demand. Another factor pushing the paper industry ahead has been demand for paper from the growing number of personal computer users. The printing-publishing industry added 600 workers over the year. Increases in this industry over the long term are related to population growth, but the year-to-year gain likely reflects the positive effect of a strong economy on advertising revenues.

Drop In Oil Prices A Mixed Blessing

The largest loss in manufacturing jobs over the year occurred in nonelectrical machinery which fell 3,800. Most of the drop resulted from the completion of contracts for oil field equipment for Alaska. Oil field development activity was cut back following the sharp drop in petroleum prices last year. Lower petroleum prices boosted retail trade and many other sectors of the state's economy because it resulted in more discretionary income for consumers, but it was not a total gain since trade with Alaska is important to the economy of Washington State.

Aluminum employment dropped 1,000 over the year in Washington State because of the closure of aluminum plants in Vancouver and Goldendale. The Vancouver smelter, however, was purchased by a new firm which plans to reopen it in July. Negotiations are also under way to purchase and reopen the Goldendale smelter by another firm. The nationwide retrenchment in high-tech industries has also been felt in Washington State with year-to-year losses of 400 in electrical equipment and 800 in instruments . Nationally, however, there have been recent signs of a recovery in the computer portion of the industry.

Services Leads New Job Growth

The services industry continued to lead all industries in the creation of new jobs with an increase of 19,800 jobs in the past 12 months to account for over one-third of the state's new nonfarm jobs. Common beliefs aside, not all service jobs are low-paying. Beside cleaners, practical nurses, and child-care workers, the industry employs physicians, lawyers, computer specialists and other professionals. About one-fourth of the new jobs in services occurred in the health care field with the largest expansion at medical laboratories; outpatient care facilities, including those assisting people with alcohol, drug or tobacco use problems; and visiting nurse services. Employment in business services rose nearly as much as it did in medical services. Much of the increase in business services occurred at personnel supply agencies, firms which supply a wide-variety of workers to other businesses while retaining those workers on their own payrolls. Firms contracting for the workers range from administrative offices which may need a temporary accountant or clerk to a lumber mill which wishes to avoid the administrative work of employing workers directly.

Trade and Construction Jobs Up Strongly

Other strong gains over the year in the nonmanufacturing industries included a gain of 11,100 in retail trade with consumers spending remaining strong. Construction payrolls were up 5,000 year-to-year with low-interest rates boosting residential construction, while civilian government payrolls were 7,100 above their year-earlier level. The relative increase in government, however, was well below the overall gain in total nonfarm payroll employment, 2.0 percent versus 3.1 percent.

Transportation Services Up, But Telephone Companies Cut Staffing

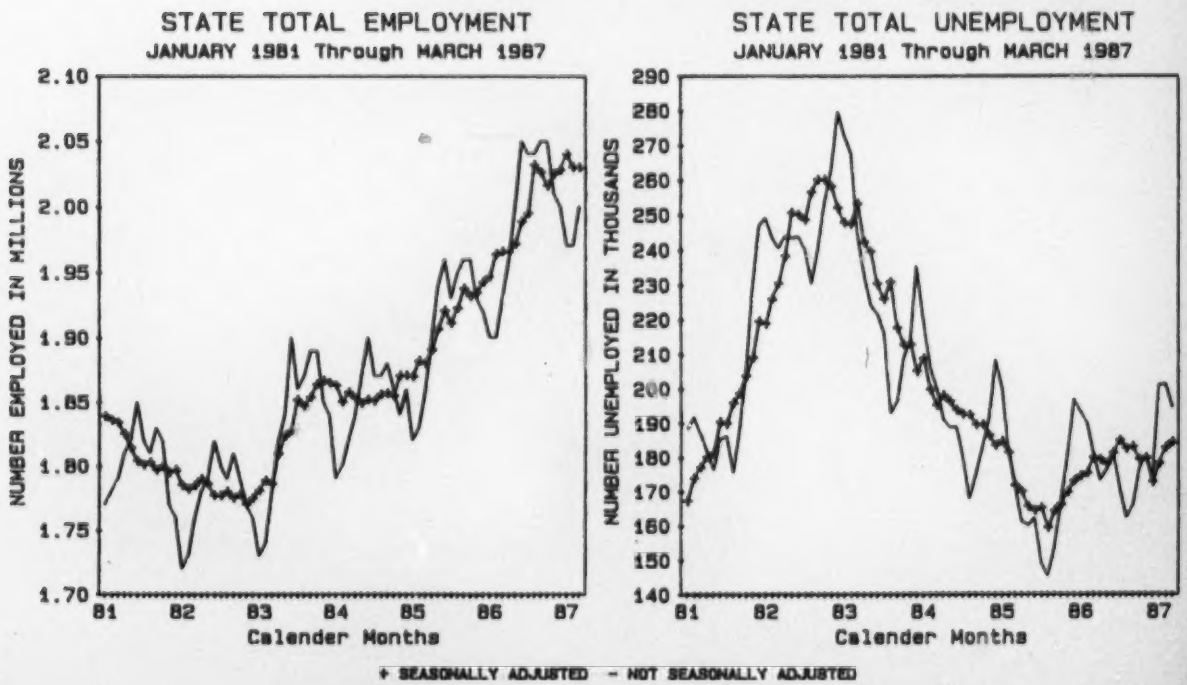
Transportation, communications and utilities payrolls rose 1,000 over the year, but the percentage gain was only slightly over one percent. Transportation services (trucking, warehousing, private bus services, etc.) posted most of the gain, as telephone companies pared staffing because of growing competition in the wake of deregulation.

Area Developments

The decline in unemployment between February and March occurred mainly in areas largely dependent on the agriculture, food processing and lumber industries where employment expanded seasonally. Compared with the statewide decline in the jobless rate from 9.2 to 8.9 percent, the rate in Eastern Washington dropped from 13.0 to 12.0 percent largely because of more employment opportunities in agriculture and related industries. The rate in Western Washington, which is less dependent on seasonal industries and where more moderate winter weather results in smaller seasonal fluctuations, fell only slightly, from 8.2 to 8.0 percent. And even in Western Washington, the drop in unemployment was mainly in nonmetropolitan areas which are more dependent on seasonal industries such as lumber and construction.

Seattle's Unemployment Rate Unchanged

In the Seattle Metropolitan Area, which has one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state, the rate was unchanged at 6.8 percent between February and March. The expansion in agriculture, food processing and lumber furnished relatively few new employment opportunities there. Moreover, because of Seattle's substantial employment in nonseasonal administrative, trade, service and government jobs, employment changes in construction and other seasonal industries have relatively less impact on the area's jobless rate. By contrast, the rate in Grays Harbor County fell from 13.3 to 12.2 percent, while Clallam County's rate dropped from 11.7 to 10.3 percent because of seasonal growth in lumber and construction.



Unemployment Down In Eastern Washington

East of the Cascades, more jobs in agriculture and food processing lowered the unemployment rate from 16.7 to 14.7 percent in the Yakima area and from 12.7 to 10.5 percent in Tri-Cities area (Benton and Franklin counties). The largest change in Eastern Washington occurred in Columbia County where the rate dropped from 30.7 to 17.1 percent over the month due to an expansion in food processing. Because of the small size of the area's labor force, however, relative changes tend to be large there. Numerically, the number of unemployed workers in the county fell only 230 over the month (from 610 to 380) despite the large change in its unemployment rate. By contrast, unemployment in the Spokane Metropolitan Area fell 800, but the percentage of its labor force unemployed was down only four-tenths of a point, from 9.6 to 9.2 percent.

Unemployment was not down in all areas in Eastern Washington over the month. In the more northern counties where winter weather lingers a few weeks longer and where food processing is less important, unemployment showed little change between February and March. In the Wenatchee area the rate dipped from 13.9 to 13.8 percent, while in the Okanogan area the rate moved up from 17.5 to 18.0 percent.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Boeing Earnings Down, But Stable Employment Expected In Puget Sound Area

Employment in aerospace continues to expand but there is little expectation that employment growth in the industry will match last year's pace. The Boeing Company, which accounts for most of the employment in the industry, reported that its net income for the first quarter slid 20 percent over the year because of higher research and development costs and lower profit margins. Overall sales were up over the year in the first quarter, but a Boeing spokesman expects 1987 sales in the $15 billion range compared with $16.34 billion in 1986. He attributed the projected drop mainly to a shift from military production programs to major development programs. Reduced deliveries of 747 jets in 1987 also will reduce sales. Nonetheless, Boeing expects the company's 1987 employment to remain "relatively level" this year in the Puget Sound area. The firm's order backlog was reported at $27 billion.

New Contracts

Through the last week of April, commercial orders for Boeing jetliners for 1987 totaled 82 with a value of $4.8 billion. For the comparable period in 1986, the company had received orders for 101 aircraft valued at approximately $6.4 billion.

Lumber Output And Profits Up

Profitability and production have increased in the lumber industry. The Western Wood Products Association reported year-to-date production in western Oregon and Washington up nearly 16 percent over the year through the week ended April 4, 1987. Meanwhile, Weyerhaeuser Company reported first quarter earnings nearly twice as great as for the comparable period last year. Earning data included profits from the company's pulp-paper and other operations as well as its lumber business. The company's president attributed the increase in earnings to strong markets which have been helped by the decline in the value of the dollar and improved manufacturing efficiency. Most of the company's operations were being run at near capacity. Meanwhile, Boise Cascade, which is also represented in both the lumber and pulp-paper industries, reported its first quarter earning at $40.2 million, up 15 million from the comparable quarter in 1986.

B.C. Lumber Now Faces More Competition In U.S. Market

British Columbia lumber producers have reported strong offshore sales because of the declining value of the Canadian dollar on world markets. Compared with the U.S. dollar, however, the Canadian dollar increased five cents in the first quarter. The gain in terms of U.S. currency and the 15 percent tax on Canadian lumber exported to the U.S., however, have made exports to the U.S. more expensive, which bodes well for U.S. producers.

Pulp-Paper Workers Reject Offer

In the pulp-paper portion of the forest products industry, union employees at Weyerhaeuser's Oregon and Washington paper mills rejected a company offer in April for performance-based pay increases of up to four percent and company pension and medical benefit proposals. No strike deadline was set and negotiations will continue. The union is also negotiating new contracts with Boise Cascade Corporation and International Paper Company.

Todd Workers Get New Offer

Todd Shipyard workers, who narrowly rejected a new contract in early April, were expected to approve a revised offer according to a union official. Shipyard journeyman who formerly earned $13.50 per hour are expected to be paid $12 an hour under the new contract offered by Todd plus profit sharing of at least 25 cents per hour. Newly hired workers, however, would be paid $10 an hour. Lower wages would make the shipyard more competitive with East and Gulf Coast shipyards.

275 Laid Off By Todd

Todd Shipyards laid off 275 workers, or about one-fourth of its production employees, in April. The company blamed the layoffs on Coast Guard modifications in a contract to modernize and

rehabilitate eight high-endurance cutters. A Todd spokesman said that the firm needs time to draw up and engineer plans for the changes. The company was also reported to be attempting to renegotiate some of its debts.

Tacoma Boat Reports Profit

Tacoma Boatbuilding, which expects to emerge from bankruptcy by the end of June, reported its fifth consecutive quarterly profit in April but by a narrow $10,000 on sales of $5.6 million. Tacoma Boat recently received a $34 million contract for the conversion of an oceanographic research vessel to a submarine tracking ship and has a $5 million plus contract to partially rehabilitate and oceanliner. The company is seeking contracts to build gunboats and small warships for foreign nations and a U.S. Navy contract to build submarine tracking ships.

Spokane Apparel Firm To Expand

Despite stiff foreign competition in the apparel industry, K-L Manufacturing Company plans to add up to 300 workers at its three Spokane-area plants because of increased business. The company produces garments for major apparel firms such as Levi and Espirit. A spokesman attributed the upturn in orders to the decline in the value of the dollar and restrictions on the import of apparel manufactured abroad.

NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Housing Starts Dip

The outlook for construction in 1987 remains favorable, but April housing start data and rising interest rates moderated the outlook of many analysts. National housing starts slipped from a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,833,000 units in February to 1,774,000 units in March. An economist for the Mortgage Bankers Association, however, said that the housing market is still doing well and that he expected a reduction from high January and February rates because starts in those months were helped by unseasonally mild weather in some regions. Other analysts, however, said homebuilding could decline in subsequent months because of recent increases in mortgage rates that have yet to be reflected in the housing starts figures.

Mortgage Rates Up

Home mortgage rates, which were at a nine year low in March, rose to over ten percent in April for the first time since October 1986. Analysts attributed the upturn in interest rates to the increase in the prime rate, the falling value of the dollar, and fears of renewed inflation. Many analysts, however, expect interest rates to slip back once concern over the strength of the dollar and a revival of inflation subsides. Other analysts believe that the national economy is too sluggish to support interest rates at their current level.

Weak Dollar To Help Tourist Business

While the weak dollar helped push up interest rates in April, it should benefit the tourist industry. With the value of foreign currencies up 18 to 30 percent in terms of dollars, it will be less expensive for foreigners to vacation in the U.S. than before. In addition, the decline in the dollar's value will make it more expensive for U.S. residents to vacation abroad, which will encourage many to choose domestic over international trips this summer.

The increase in tourist business should help boost retail sales, which are expected to grow less this year because of rising consumer debt and slow growth in personal income. Nationally, retail sales rose a scant 0.2 percent in March following a 4.9 percent surge in February. Some analysts believe April sales were held down because of a late Easter selling season this year, but the U.S. Commerce Department believes retail sales figures in recent months suggest that while retail sales will continue to grow, the growth rate will be slower than in 1986.

Tacoma In Running For Auto Import Center

Tacoma is one of five Northwest ports a Korean Auto Manufacturer, Hyundai Motors, is considering for construction of a $15-20 million auto import center. The other ports being considered are Kalama and Vancouver in Washington and Portland and Astoria in Oregon. The facility would employ 100 to 150 workers. The company currently imports its cars through the ports of Los Angeles and Portland but uses independent auto processing companies to unload and prepare its autos. Hyundai is expected to make its selection soon. The new site may be in operation within 9 to 18 months.

More Cargo Likely For Port Of Tacoma

In April a major steamship company, Maersk Line, decided to halt its stop at Vancouver B.C., which is likely to mean more container business for the Port of Tacoma. The Vancouver B.C. port has been handling about 15,000 containers a year for Maersk. The firm already ships 80,000 to 100,000 containers a year through the Port of Tacoma.

NATIONAL CONTEXT

GNP Rises

A drop in the trade deficit plus an inventory buildup boosted the growth rate in the Gross National Product (GNP), the inflation-adjusted value of the economy's output of goods and services, to 4.3 percent in the first quarter. The increase in the fourth quarter of 1986 was only 1.1 percent. A decline in the trade deficit helped advance the GNP for the second straight quarter. (Recent monthly figures show the deficit increasing, but those data are not adjusted for

inflation or seasonal change as the GNP figures are.) Despite the healthy increase in the GNP, however, consumer spending fell for the second consecutive quarter.

While the rate for the first quarter was the largest since the second quarter of 1984, many analysts believe the rate exaggerated the economy's strength. Those down-playing the significance of the rise said the inventory buildup was excessive in light of current demand and that a slowdown in inventory investment is likely in the current quarter, which will restrain growth. Much of the inventory buildup was in the auto industry, which has cut production recently.

Leading Indicators Advance

The Index of Leading Economic Indicators, the government's main barometer of future economic activity, rose a moderate 0.4 percent in March, matching the February gain. The rise in the Index resulted from higher stock market prices, a drop in new unemployment claims, a rise in new orders for plant and equipment, and a slowdown in the delivery of business goods, which suggests larger order backlogs. A spokesman for the Commerce Department said the increase in the Index is consistent with an annual growth rate of at least three percent in the GNP. The GNP rose 2.5 percent in 1986.

Analysts were generally encouraged by the report. An economist for Data Resources, Inc., a forecasting firm, expects moderate growth this quarter followed by some substantial gains. The large inventory buildup in the first quarter is expected to moderate growth in the second quarter.

Consumer Confidence Up

Along with other generally positive economic data, the Conference Board's monthly index of consumer confidence jumped five points in March to 98.1. The index is based on a survey of 5,000 households with a base year confidence level of 100 in 1985. Over 22 percent of the households in the survey thought jobs were plentiful, up from 20 percent in February. Only 15 percent thought there would be a reduction in the number of jobs available over the next six months. The research director for the Conference Board, a business-supported research group, said that while there is more optimism about the job outlook, consumers are not fully comfortable with current business conditions.

LABOR SURPLUS AREAS

The U.S. Department of Labor has designated "Labor Surplus Areas" for the Federal Fiscal Year beginning October 1, 1986 and ending September 30, 1987. The issuance of this listing was delayed until April of this year because the Department of Labor had to implement changes in the law governing eligibility, which reduced the minimum population size for labor surplus areas from 50,000 to 25,000. Listings of labor surplus areas for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1987 should be released prior to that time and will be published in the Washington Labor Market.

Employers in labor surplus areas are eligible for preference in federal contract bids if they agree to perform over 50 percent of the contract work within such areas. The purpose of identifying labor surplus areas is to channel federal government procurement dollars into communities with high unemployment. All counties and cities with populations of at least 25,000 are eligible for the classification provided their average unemployment rate has been above a certain level in the last two complete calendar years.

To be classified as a labor surplus area for the October 1, 1986 to September 30, 1987 period, an area needed an average unemployment rate of at least nine percent for the 24-month period of January 1984 through December 1985. An exceptional circumstances provision, however, allows the U.S. Department of Labor to classify other areas as labor surplus areas if unemployment rises substantially because of recent developments such as plant closures, contract cancellations, natural disasters, and other unforseen circumstances.

The following table identifies current labor surplus areas in Washington State.

LABOR SURPLUS AREAS
ELIGIBLE FOR FEDERAL PROCUREMENT PREFERENCE
FROM OCTOBER 1 1986 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 1987

ELIGIBLE LABOR SURPLUS AREAS	CIVIL JURISDICTIONS INCLUDED
WASHINGTON	
ADAMS COUNTY	ADAMS COUNTY
ASOTIN COUNTY	ASOTIN COUNTY
BELLINGHAM CITY	BELLINGHAM CITY IN WHATCOM COUNTY
BALANCE OF BENTON COUNTY	BENTON COUNTY LESS KENNEWICK CITY AND RICHLAND CITY
CHELAN COUNTY	CHELAN COUNTY
CLALLAM COUNTY	CLALLAM COUNTY
COLUMBIA COUNTY	COLUMBIA COUNTY
BALANCE OF COWLITZ COUNTY	COWLITZ COUNTY LESS LONGVIEW CITY
DOUGLAS COUNTY	DOUGLAS COUNTY
EVERETT CITY	EVERETT CITY IN SNOHOMISH COUNTY
FERRY COUNTY	FERRY COUNTY
FRANKLIN COUNTY	FRANKLIN COUNTY
GRANT COUNTY	GRANT COUNTY
GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY	GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY
JEFFERSON COUNTY	JEFFERSON COUNTY
KENNEWICK CITY	KENNEWICK CITY IN BENTON COUNTY
KITTITAS COUNTY	KITTITAS COUNTY
KLICKITAT COUNTY	KLICKITAT COUNTY
LEWIS COUNTY	LEWIS COUNTY
LONGVIEW CITY	LONGVIEW CITY IN COWLITZ COUNTY
MASON COUNTY	MASON COUNTY
OKANOGAN COUNTY	OKANOGAN COUNTY
PACIFIC COUNTY	PACIFIC COUNTY
PEND OREILLE COUNTY	PEND OREILLE COUNTY
RICHLAND CITY	RICHLAND CITY IN BENTON COUNTY
SKAGIT COUNTY	SKAGIT COUNTY
SKAMANIA COUNTY	SKAMANIA COUNTY
STEVENS COUNTY	STEVENS COUNTY
TACOMA CITY	TACOMA CITY IN PIERCE COUNTY
VANCOUVER CITY	VANCOUVER CITY IN CLARK COUNTY
WAHKIAKUM COUNTY	WAHKIAKUM COUNTY
WALLA WALLA CITY	WALLA WALLA CITY IN WALLA WALLA COUNTY
BALANCE OF WHATCOM COUNTY	WHATCOM COUNTY LESS BELLINGHAM CITY
YAKIMA CITY	YAKIMA CITY IN YAKIMA COUNTY
BALANCE OF YAKIMA COUNTY	YAKIMA COUNTY LESS YAKIMA CITY

DISTRESSED AREAS

A number of state programs are available to assist areas with high unemployment. Eligible areas are termed distressed. A distressed area is an area which has an average unemployment rate for the last three complete calendar years that is at least 20 percent above the comparable statewide average. The determination of distressed areas last year was based on unemployment data from January 1983 through December 1985. An area then needed a rate of at least 11.5 percent to be classified as distressed. The latest classifications are based on unemployment data from January 1984 through December 1986. This year a distressed area must have a three-year average rate of at least 10.3 percent. The latest calculations did not result in any areas being added or dropped from the distressed classification.

Distressed areas qualify for a variety of benefits, such as loans and grants to attract or retain businesses, financing infrastructure improvements, and matching funds to stimulate private investments. Firms building manufacturing plants in distressed areas are eligible for sales and use tax deferrals, and employers in these areas are eligible for special benefits for hiring unemployment insurance and public assistance recipients.

Areas classified as distressed are identified in the following table.

Washington State Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch

	Three Year Average Unemployment Rate (Jan. 84 - Dec. 86)	Distressed Areas: Unemployment Rate >= 10.3
WASHINGTON STATE	8.6	
Adams	12.0	Adams
Asotin	9.1	
Benton	10.9	Benton
Chelan	12.9	Chelan
Clallam	10.8	Clallam
Clark	8.8	
Columbia	16.1	Columbia
Cowlitz	11.7	Cowlitz
Douglas	10.0	
Ferry	14.9	Ferry
Franklin	12.3	Franklin
Garfield	8.6	
Grant	11.7	Grant
Grays Harbor	13.5	Grays Harbor
Island	7.3	
Jefferson	8.8	
King	6.7	
Kitsap	6.3	
Kittitas	11.3	Kittitas
Klickitat	15.0	Klickitat
Lewis	12.8	Lewis
Lincoln	6.3	
Mason	9.3	
Okanogan	16.1	Okanogan
Pacific	14.6	Pacific
Pend Oreille	15.6	Pend Oreille
Pierce	8.4	
San Juan	6.5	
Skagit	13.0	Skagit
Skamania	20.7	Skamania
Snohomish	8.2	
Spokane	8.1	
Stevens	14.3	Stevens
Thurston	8.4	
Wahkiakum	13.3	Wahkiakum
Walla Walla	9.4	
Whatcom	9.6	
Whitman	3.8	
Yakima	13.5	Yakima

1/ Data for 1985 and 1986 were revised in March 1987 incorporating updated information on exempt corporate officers and industry employment.

2/ Data for 1984 were revised to correct overcounts in claims data.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX*

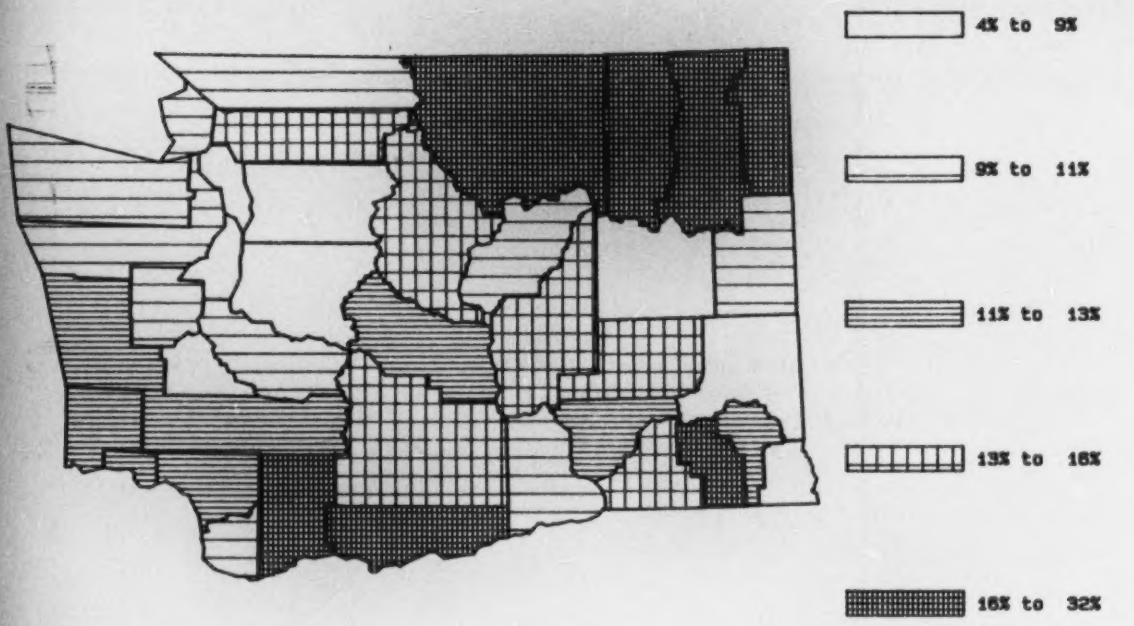
(All Items, Urban Consumers, 1967=100)

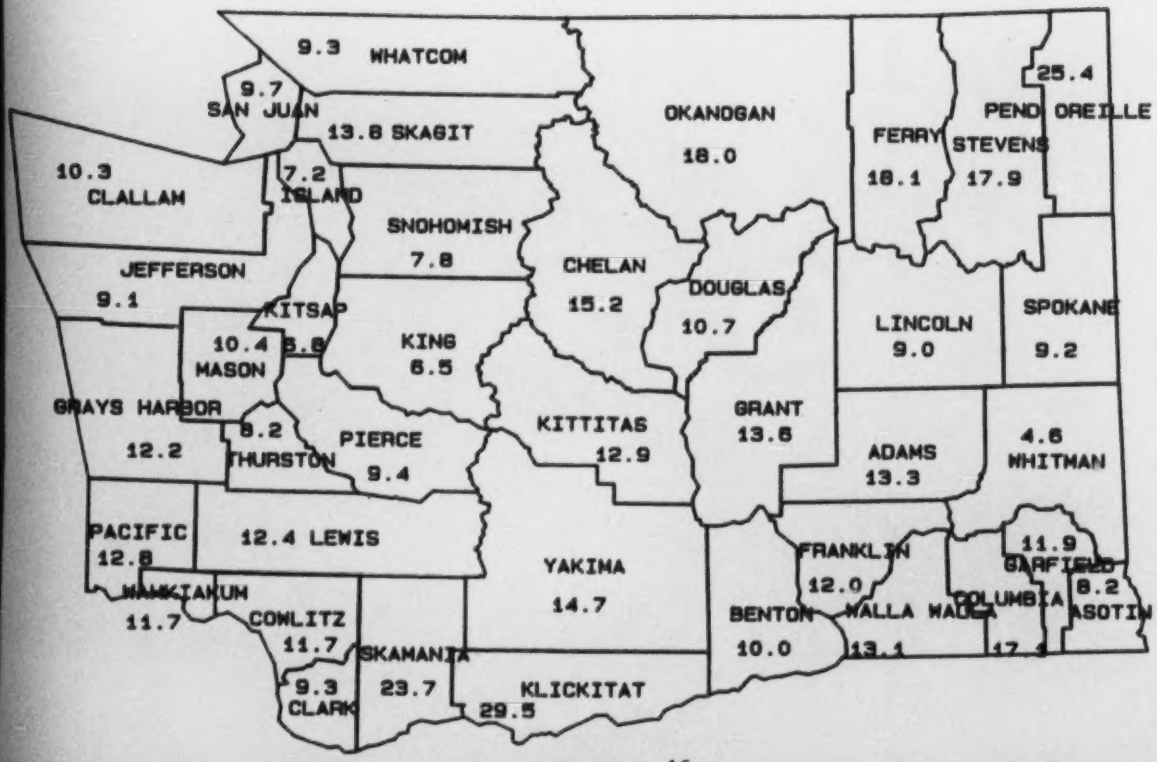
	INDEXES			PERCENT CHANGE Year Ending	
	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1987	Mar. 1986	Mar. 1987	Feb. 1987
U.S. City Average	335.9	334.4	326.0	3.0	2.1

* The Bureau of Labor Statistics no longer develops bimonthly CPI data for the Seattle area. Beginning this year the Seattle index will be published twice a year. The index covering the first half of 1987 will be released in August. The index for Seattle will reflect prices in King, Pierce and Snohomish counties.

MARCH UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

State of Washington 8.9





NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, PLACE OF WORK 2/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED Industry	Mar. 1987 (Prel.)	Feb. 1987 (Rev.)	Mar. 1986 (Rev.)	Feb. 1986 (Rev.)	Numerical Change: Feb. 87 to Mar. 87	Numerical Change: Mar. 86 to Mar. 87
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY....	1790.1	1771.1	1736.7	1718.0	19.0	53.4
MANUFACTURING.....	302.8	300.0	300.3	298.5	2.8	2.5
Durable Goods.....	212.7	211.8	211.3	210.0	0.9	1.4
Lumber & Wood Products.....	36.9	36.5	36.8	36.5	0.4	0.1
Furniture & Fixtures.....	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.8	0.1	0.2
Stone, Clay & Glass.....	6.0	5.9	6.0	5.9	0.1	0.0
Primary Metals.....	10.9	11.0	12.1	12.1	-0.1	-1.2
Aluminum.....	7.1	7.1	8.1	8.0	0.0	-1.0
Fabricated Metals.....	9.7	9.6	9.7	9.6	0.1	0.0
Machinery.....	28.2	28.1	32.4	32.5	0.1	-4.2
Machinery (Exc. Elec.)...	16.1 4/	16.1 4/	19.9	20.2	0.0	-3.8
Electrical Equip.....	12.1	12.0	12.5	12.3	0.1	-0.4
Transportation Equip.....	102.5	102.2	95.3	94.5	0.3	7.2
Aerospace.....	89.3	88.9	82.5	81.7	0.4	6.8
Other Transp. Equip.....	13.2 4/	13.3 4/	12.8	12.8	-0.1	0.4
Instruments & Related.....	9.8	9.9	10.6	10.6	-0.1	-0.8
Misc. Manufacturing.....	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.5	0.0	0.1
Nondurable Goods.....	90.1	88.2	89.0	88.5	1.9	1.1
Food & Kindred Products....	28.1	27.0 4/	28.8	28.5	1.1	-0.7
Canned & Preserved Foods.	8.9	8.1	9.8	9.6	0.8	-0.9
Apparel & Allied Products..	6.0	5.9	5.9	6.0	0.1	0.1
Paper & Allied Products....	17.1	16.9	16.4	16.4	0.2	0.7
Printing & Publishing.....	19.0	18.8	18.4	18.3	0.2	0.6
Chemicals & Allied Products	11.8	11.6	11.5	11.4	0.2	0.3
Other Nondurable Goods 3/..	8.1	8.0	8.0	7.9	0.1	0.1
MINING & QUARRYING	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.6	0.1	0.1
CONSTRUCTION.....	83.9	80.6	78.9	75.1	3.3	5.0
TRANSP.,COMM. & UTIL.....	95.1 4/	94.9 4/	94.1	93.6	0.2	1.0
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE.....	435.6	431.5	421.3	416.2	4.1	14.3
Wholesale Trade.....	108.1	107.2	104.9	104.0	0.9	3.2
Retail Trade.....	327.5 4/	324.3 4/	316.4	312.2	3.2	11.1
FIN. INS. & REAL ESTATE.....	106.9	106.4	103.3	102.6	0.5	3.6
SERVICES.....	404.2	399.4	384.4	379.4	4.8	19.8
Health Services.....	125.1	124.1	120.0	119.0	1.0	5.1
GOVERNMENT.....	358.7	355.5	351.6	350.0	3.2	7.1
Federal.....	70.9	70.4	68.5	68.8	0.5	2.4
State & Local.....	287.8	285.1	283.1	281.2	2.7	4.7
Education.....	155.3	154.3	154.4	153.6	1.0	0.9
(WORKERS IN LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES.....	1.5	1.8	0.0	0.0	-0.3	1.8

_1/ These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable to data released in previous years than are official Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

_2/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

_3/ Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastic products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

_4/ Workers excluded because of involvement in labor-management disputes.

Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch

RESIDENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT
IN WASHINGTON STATE AND LABOR MARKET AREAS

DATE 5/5/87
Benchmark: 1986

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	MARCH 1987 PRELIMINARY 1/				FEBRUARY 1987 REVISED 1/				MARCH 1986 REVISED			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate
Washington State total	2,196,200	2,001,500	194,700	8.9	2,180,700	1,979,300	201,400	9.2	2,127,000	1,936,900	190,100	8.9
Bellingham MSA	56,100	50,900	5,200	9.3	55,300	49,700	5,600	10.1	54,100	48,800	5,300	9.8
Bremerton MSA	70,800	66,000	4,800	6.8	69,700	65,000	4,700	6.7	69,400	65,000	4,400	6.3
Olympia MSA	72,200	66,300	5,900	8.2	71,300	65,300	6,000	8.4	68,700	63,100	5,600	8.2
Seattle PMSA	980,200	913,700	66,500	6.8	977,900	911,300	66,600	6.8	934,500	870,900	63,600	6.8
King County 2/	780,000	729,100	50,900	6.5	778,100	727,200	50,900	6.5	742,700	695,000	47,700	6.4
Snohomish County 2/	200,100	184,500	15,600	7.8	199,700	184,000	15,700	7.9	191,800	175,900	15,900	8.3
Spokane MSA	162,800	147,900	14,900	9.2	162,900	147,200	15,700	9.6	161,200	146,500	14,700	9.1
Tacoma PMSA	234,500	212,400	22,100	9.4	232,100	210,500	21,600	9.3	227,700	208,700	19,000	8.3
Tri-Cities MSA	67,700	60,600	7,100	10.5	67,600	59,000	8,600	12.7	66,400	59,600	6,800	10.2
Benton County 2/	52,000	46,800	5,200	10.0	51,700	45,500	5,800	11.3	51,000	46,000	5,000	9.8
Franklin County 2/	15,800	13,900	1,900	12.0	16,300	13,500	2,800	17.2	15,400	13,600	1,800	11.7
Vancouver PMSA	104,200	94,500	9,700	9.3	103,200	93,300	9,900	9.6	102,900	93,500	9,400	9.1
Yakima MSA	83,500	71,200	12,300	14.7	81,400	67,800	13,600	16.7	83,200	68,900	14,300	17.2
Adams	6,170	5,350	820	13.3	6,300	5,170	1,130	17.9	5,990	5,230	760	12.7
Asotin	8,770	8,050	720	8.2	8,610	7,890	720	8.4	8,000	7,210	790	9.9
Clallam	21,720	19,480	2,240	10.3	21,530	19,010	2,520	11.7	20,930	18,620	2,310	11.0
Columbia	2,220	1,840	380	17.1	1,990	1,380	610	30.7	2,020	1,670	350	17.3
Cowlitz	34,160	30,150	4,010	11.7	33,540	29,660	3,880	11.6	32,880	28,300	4,580	13.9
Ferry	2,490	2,040	450	18.1	2,380	2,030	350	14.7	2,580	2,050	530	20.5
Garfield	1,010	890	120	11.9	1,030	880	150	14.6	1,020	880	140	13.7
Grant	23,730	20,500	3,230	13.6	23,230	19,540	3,690	15.9	23,210	20,430	2,780	12.0
Grays Harbor	25,810	22,660	3,150	12.2	26,000	22,540	3,460	13.3	25,800	22,050	3,750	14.5
Island	16,900	15,680	1,220	7.2	16,750	15,470	1,280	7.6	16,580	15,430	1,150	6.9
Jefferson	7,700	7,000	700	9.1	7,550	6,810	740	9.8	7,130	6,450	680	9.5
Kittitas	11,590	10,100	1,490	12.9	11,520	9,980	1,540	13.4	11,590	9,940	1,650	14.2
Klickitat	7,500	5,290	2,210	29.5	7,650	5,520	2,130	27.8	7,380	5,670	1,710	23.2
Lewis	23,880	20,910	2,970	12.4	24,040	20,880	3,160	13.1	22,860	19,720	3,140	13.7
Lincoln	4,330	3,940	390	9.0	4,320	3,870	450	10.4	4,030	3,690	340	8.4
Mason	12,210	10,940	1,270	10.4	12,110	10,720	1,390	11.5	12,220	10,970	1,250	10.2
Okanogan	14,500	11,890	2,610	18.0	14,040	11,590	2,450	17.5	14,360	11,550	2,810	19.6
Pacific	6,580	5,740	840	12.8	6,430	5,600	830	12.9	6,740	5,680	1,060	15.7
Pend Oreille	3,030	2,260	770	25.4	3,010	2,240	770	25.6	3,620	2,920	700	19.3
San Juan	4,140	3,740	400	9.7	4,030	3,510	520	12.9	4,140	3,750	390	9.4
Skagit	31,710	27,320	4,390	13.8	30,230	25,150	5,080	16.8	33,080	28,880	4,200	12.7
Skamania	2,280	1,740	540	23.7	2,470	1,690	780	31.6	2,240	1,680	560	25.0
Stevens	10,740	8,820	1,920	17.9	10,650	8,820	1,830	17.2	10,890	8,830	2,060	18.9
Wahkiakum	1,110	980	130	11.7	1,100	950	150	13.6	1,260	1,070	190	15.1
Walla Walla	22,950	19,940	3,010	13.1	22,990	19,670	3,320	14.4	22,900	19,920	2,980	13.0
Wenatchee Labor Area	38,390	33,090	5,300	13.8	37,430	32,230	5,200	13.9	37,140	31,650	5,490	14.8
Chelan County 2/	26,360	22,360	4,000	15.2	25,600	21,780	3,820	14.9	25,520	21,390	4,130	16.2
Douglas County 2/	12,020	10,730	1,290	10.7	11,830	10,450	1,380	11.7	11,620	10,260	1,360	11.7
Whitman	18,470	17,620	850	4.6	18,270	17,440	830	4.5	18,450	17,770	680	3.7

1/ Estimates provided here are for use as an economic time-series.

2/ Estimates are determined by using the Population/Claims Share disaggregation methodology.
Note: Detail may not add due to rounding

Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES FOR FEDERAL PROGRAM PURPOSES

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

May 5, 1987
Benchmark: 1986

	MARCH 1987 PRELIMINARY 1/				FEBRUARY 1987 REVISED 1/			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate
Washington State total	2,181,800	1,979,500	202,300	9.3	2,161,200	1,957,000	204,200	9.4
Bellingham MSA	55,700	50,300	5,400	9.7	54,900	49,200	5,700	10.4
Bremerton MSA	70,200	65,200	5,000	7.1	69,100	64,300	4,800	6.9
Olympia MSA	71,700	65,600	6,100	8.5	70,700	64,600	6,100	8.6
Seattle PMSA	972,700	903,600	69,100	7.1	968,600	901,000	67,600	7.0
King County 2/	774,000	721,100	52,900	6.8	770,600	719,000	51,600	6.7
Snohomish County 2/	198,700	182,500	16,200	8.2	197,900	182,000	15,900	8.0
Spokane MSA	161,900	146,300	15,500	9.6	161,400	145,500	15,900	9.9
Tacoma MSA	233,000	210,100	22,900	9.8	230,100	208,200	21,900	9.5
Tri-Cities MSA	67,400	60,000	7,400	11.0	67,000	58,300	8,700	13.0
Benton County 2/	51,700	46,300	5,400	10.4	50,900	45,000	5,900	11.6
Franklin County 2/	15,700	13,700	2,000	12.7	16,200	13,300	2,900	17.9
Vancouver PMSA	103,600	93,500	10,100	9.7	102,400	92,300	10,100	9.9
Yakima MSA	83,200	70,400	12,800	15.4	80,800	67,000	13,900	17.1
Adams	6,140	5,290	850	13.8	6,250	5,110	1,140	18.2
Asotin	8,710	7,960	750	8.6	8,530	7,800	730	8.6
Clallam	21,590	19,260	2,330	10.8	21,360	18,800	2,560	12.0
Columbia	2,220	1,820	400	18.0	1,980	1,360	620	31.3
Cowlitz	33,990	29,820	4,170	12.3	33,250	29,320	3,930	11.8
Ferry	2,490	2,020	470	18.9	2,370	2,010	360	15.2
Garfield	1,010	880	130	12.9	1,020	870	150	14.7
Grant	23,630	20,270	3,360	14.2	23,060	19,320	3,740	16.2
Grays Harbor	25,680	22,410	3,270	12.7	25,790	22,280	3,510	13.6
Island	16,780	15,510	1,270	7.6	16,590	15,300	1,290	7.8
Jefferson	7,650	6,920	730	9.5	7,480	6,730	750	10.0
Kittitas	11,540	9,990	1,550	13.4	11,430	9,870	1,560	13.6
Klickitat	7,530	5,230	2,300	30.5	7,620	5,460	2,160	28.3
Lewis	23,770	20,690	3,090	13.0	23,860	20,650	3,210	13.5
Lincoln	4,310	3,900	410	9.5	4,280	3,830	450	10.5
Mason	12,130	10,820	1,310	10.8	12,010	10,600	1,410	11.7
Okanogan	14,470	11,760	2,710	18.7	13,950	11,460	2,490	17.8
Pacific	6,550	5,680	870	13.3	6,390	5,540	850	13.3
Pend Oreille	3,040	2,240	800	26.3	3,000	2,210	790	26.3
San Juan	4,110	3,700	410	10.0	4,010	3,480	530	13.2
Skagit	31,580	27,020	4,560	14.4	30,020	24,870	5,150	17.2
Skamania	2,280	1,720	560	24.6	2,470	1,680	790	32.0
Stevens	10,720	8,720	2,000	18.7	10,580	8,720	1,860	17.6
Wahkiakum	1,090	960	130	11.9	1,090	940	150	13.8
Walla Walla	22,850	19,730	3,120	13.7	22,810	19,450	3,360	14.7
Wenatchee Labor Area	38,230	32,730	5,500	14.4	37,140	31,870	5,270	14.2
Chelan County 2/	26,280	22,120	4,160	15.8	25,420	21,540	3,880	15.3
Douglas County 2/	11,950	10,610	1,340	11.2	11,730	10,330	1,400	11.9
Whitman	18,300	17,420	880	4.8	18,080	17,240	840	4.6

1/ Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. Data are not comparable with estimates made in previous years.
2/ Estimates are determined by using the Population/Claims Share disaggregation methodology.
Note: Detail may not add due to rounding.

ESTIMATED AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING AND OF NONSUPERVISORY WORKERS IN NONMANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES, STATE OF WASHINGTON

	Prelim Feb Production Workers/ Nonsupervisory Workers	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
		Feb-87	Jan-87	Feb-86	Feb-87	Jan-87	Feb-86	Feb-87	Jan-87	Feb-86
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES*	176.600	$494.41	$481.19	$464.52	40.3	39.9	39.2	$12.62	$12.06	$11.85
SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Lumber and Wood Products	31.100	$435.59	$433.88	$436.70	40.9	40.1	39.1	$10.65	$10.82	$11.22
Primary Metal Industries	8.600	$545.18	$547.80	$541.68	43.2	43.1	41.7	$12.62	$12.71	$12.99
Fabricated Metal Products	7.100	$434.30	$439.27	$444.38	38.4	38.6	39.5	$11.31	$11.38	$11.25
**Machinery	16.400	$385.14	$376.49	$383.17	39.3	38.7	38.9	$9.80	$9.76	$9.85
**Food and Kindred Products	18.900	$371.51	$366.10	$345.60	37.3	36.5	36.0	$9.96	$10.03	$9.60
Chemical and Allied Products	5.500	$625.83	$576.69	$576.16	43.4	40.9	41.6	$14.42	$14.10	$13.85
**Transportation Equipment	42.200	$620.31	$618.23	$565.40	42.4	42.2	41.3	$14.63	$14.65	$13.69
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction	56.900	$584.87	$577.45	$573.16	36.6	35.8	35.6	$15.98	$16.13	$16.10
**Wholesale and Retail Trade (does not include eating and drinking establishments)	264.100	$324.99	$316.35	$321.73	34.5	33.3	34.3	$9.42	$9.50	$9.38

* Average hourly earnings for all manufacturing production workers reported in this table do not fully reflect the official US Bureau of Labor Statistics definition of "wages." While these data still constitute a valid economic indicator series, they should not be used at this time for the negotiation of contracts whose monetary provisions may depend upon official US Bureau of Labor Statistics hourly earning data.

** Affected by labor-management disputes.

ESTIMATED AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING AND OF NONSUPERVISORY WORKERS IN NONMANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES, STATE OF WASHINGTON

	Prelim Mar Production Workers/ Nonsupervisory Workers	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
		Mar-87	Feb-87	Mar-86	Mar-87	Feb-87	Mar-86	Mar-87	Feb-87	Mar-86
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES*	179,600	$484.41	$484.41	$475.20	40.2	40.3	40.0	$12.05	$12.02	$11.88
SELECTED MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Lumber and Wood Products	31,700	$427.07	$431.01	$453.72	40.1	40.7	39.8	$10.65	$10.59	$11.40
Primary Metal Industries	8,600	$550.23	$543.06	$553.66	43.6	43.1	42.2	$12.62	$12.60	$13.12
Fabricated Metal Products	7,300	$441.57	$433.15	$456.86	38.7	38.4	39.9	$11.41	$11.28	$11.45
**Machinery	16,500	$385.73	$385.14	$392.12	39.2	39.1	40.3	$9.84	$9.85	$9.73
**Food and Kindred Products	19,500	$368.64	$372.00	$348.31	36.7	37.2	36.5	$9.99	$10.00	$9.57
Chemical and Allied Products	5,400	$618.04	$643.87	$579.36	42.8	43.3	42.6	$14.37	$14.87	$13.60
**Transportation Equipment	42,700	$621.11	$615.79	$574.24	42.6	42.2	42.1	$14.58	$14.59	$13.64
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction	57,800	$604.05	$584.37	$591.67	36.9	36.5	36.5	$16.37	$16.01	$16.21
**Wholesale and Retail Trade (does not include eating and drinking establishments)	265,200	$322.59	$328.24	$322.66	34.1	34.8	34.0	$9.46	$9.40	$9.49

* Average hourly earnings for all manufacturing production workers reported in this table do not fully reflect the official US Bureau of Labor Statistics definition of "wages." While these data still constitute a valid economic indicator series, they should not be used at this time for the negotiation of contracts whose monetary provisions may depend upon official US Bureau of Labor Statistics hourly earning data.

** Affected by labor management disputes.